

NSW Powerchair Football Association Powerchair League

Competition Rules and Regulations

Organising Body – NSW Powerchair Football Association



nswpfa
NEW SOUTH WALES POWERCHAIR
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

New South Wales Powerchair Football Association

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Preamble

The **NSWPFA Powerchair League** will feature matches in two separate divisions throughout the season, namely the **NSWPFA Premiership** (previously Premier League) and **NSWPFA Championship** (previously Reserve Grade) divisions. **Clubs** in the **NSWPFA Powerchair League** will field teams in both divisions.

All **NSWPFA Powerchair League** matches will be played according to the most recent *FIPFA Laws of the Game*, including all equipment regulations regarding Powerchairs and playing attachments. The common sense and best interest application of rulings will apply throughout the **NSWPFA Powerchair League**. **NSWPFA** and all competing **Clubs** must ensure these Rules and Regulations are adhered to with the undertaking to do so in the spirit of the game and competition.

Financial Requirements

NSWPFA must bear the financial responsibility of ensuring that the costs of running the **NSWPFA Powerchair League** are met. This may include requiring clubs and/or individual players to pay membership fees, Registration fees, and other tournament-related fees as determined by the NSWPFA Treasurer and approved by the NSWPFA Board.

Organisers

NSWPFA will organise:

- Payments to Powerchair Football Match Officials, including Match and Assistant Referees, and score keepers
- Cost of awards
- Cost of Playing Venue
- Promotional Expenses & Marketing

These expenses shall be partly offset by Club and Player Registration fees.

Insurance

Insurance for participants will be covered by NSWPFA provided the participant is registered with NSWPFA. Unregistered participants will not be allowed to participate.

Participants and Clubs

The following costs shall be borne by the participants and their clubs:

- Travel to and from matches
- Player Registration fees
- Club Registration fees
- Equipment
- Playing kit

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

NSWPFA Powerchair League

Squad Declaration

- Each Club can declare a combined Premiership and Championship squad consisting of no more than the sum of all available full-time players divided by the total number of clubs, plus one (e.g. where there are 40 available full-time players, each club may declare a combined squad of no more than $(40/4)+1 = 11$ players). The NSWPFA Board will confirm within three (3) weeks of the beginning of the season the total number of eligible full-time players. For the avoidance of doubt, Skills Acquisition Players (SAP) may be included on a club's squad but will not count towards the club's total players.
- SAP-graded players will be identified by the NSWPFA, are generally new to the sport, and meet the following criteria:
 - Have low levels of match experience,
 - Demonstrate entry or developing skill levels, and/or
 - Have a basic or lower understanding of the game.
- Full-time players will be those considered available for at least 50% of competition rounds. Players who are available for less than 50% of competition rounds will be considered Part-Time players and will not be considered under the Club squad limit and may not participate in 50% or more competition rounds.
- The submitted team roster must be lodged with NSWPFA prior to the squad submission date and approved by the NSWPFA Board. The squad submission date will be determined by the NSWPFA Board and each Club will be notified of such a date no less than one (1) week prior to the date.
- Additional players may be added to a Club's squad during the season by approval by the NSWPFA Board. Additionally, players may change Clubs at any point during a season with approval from both the departing and arriving club and the NSWPFA Board.

Player Eligibility

- Players will have their eligibility graded prior to the beginning of the season by the NSWPFA Committee. The most advanced and skilled players will be rated as Premiership-grade only (extenuating circumstances permitting).
- Players who meet the following criteria are considered to be 'Advanced' and will be ineligible to play in Championship matches, unless there are player-specific circumstances which arise where a period of Championship games would be reasonable (for example returning from injury or a period without play, or degradation in skill/strength level over the course of a season). Requests for players to have their grading reconsidered to enable play in Championship matches must be provided in writing to the NSWPFA committee, and the NSWPFA committee will be required to approve any such circumstances.
- Players that meet three (3) or more of the following criteria will be ineligible to play Championship matches:
 1. Noted extensive experience in years / games at a Premiership or higher level;
 2. Observable higher skill and capability levels relative to other athletes across all grades;
 3. Extensive understanding of the rules and styles of the gameplay at a Premiership level;
 4. Has demonstrated the emotional maturity/mentality expected of athletes competing at a Premiership level;
 5. Has / does accumulate clean sheets / assists / goals at this level;
 6. Intends and does play Powerchair Football as a competitive sport, and as competitively as they can; and/or

7. Played the majority of available minutes at that level last season.
- Once a non-'Advanced' player has played at least ten minutes of one half (1/2) of the season's premier grade matches they will no longer be eligible to play Championship matches (extenuating circumstances permitting) and will be deemed to have met their 'Premier Grade Limit'. Once a club has 5 players graded either 'Advanced', or reach their Premier Grade Limit, no additional players will become ineligible for Championship participation.
 - Player substitutions will be recorded on scoresheets, including the minutes a substitution occurred. At the completion of each match, the scorekeeper will note any players who completed at least ten minutes of matchplay, for review and approval by coaches from both teams.
 - The NSWPFPA will alert clubs when non-'Advanced' graded players have played at least ten minutes in at least one third of a season's matches, and after every subsequent match until the time a player is deemed to have met their Premier Grade Limit.

Matchday rules

- No less than 15 minutes before the first match a club plays on each matchday, Clubs will name 3 athletes who will start and play at least the first half of their Premiership match, and cannot play a club's Championship match on that matchday. All other Club athletes who are eligible may play a club's Championship match on the relevant matchday.

Age Limit

There is no age limit for the NSWPFPA Powerchair League. However, all athletes should competently control their powerchair unaided and be able to abide by the laws of the game.

Player Numbers

All players must display a team number whilst participating in a match. These numbers must be displayed on at least the rear of the chair with all players from a **Club** displaying different numbers from each other. The numbers chosen may range from 1 to 99.

Playing Kits

All Teams must provide their own playing strips.

- Goalkeepers should wear a shirt that contrasts with the outfield players on both teams and the opposing goalkeeper. A bib may be used if a shirt is unavailable, however a shirt is highly recommended. If utilised, a bib must cover the majority of the front of a player's shirt to allow for easy identification of the goalkeeper by the Match Referee and Referee's Assistants.
- Where there is a clash between club shirts, and the Match Referee deems it necessary, then one team must wear bibs during play.

Powerchairs

Powerchairs must adhere to the Laws outlined in the FIPFA Powerchair Football Technical Supplement. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all requirements of the '*The Powerchair*' section of the Technical Supplement, including all powerchair dimension and overhang requirements.

Each team is allowed one (1) spare powerchair within their technical area during play. This powerchair is only allowed to be used as a result of complete mechanical failure to a player's chair. A NSWPFPA committee member will make the ruling on whether this chair can or cannot be used.

Sponsors Logos and Advertising

Sponsorship and advertising logos are allowed on athletes' playing shirts, powerchairs or player numbers.

Speed Testing

NSWPFA-appointed match officials may subject one player from each team to a Random Speed Test at the conclusion of every match. This speed test will be deemed a 'hot test' and therefore the allowable speed will be 10% above the 10km/h speed limit stipulated within the Laws of the Game.

Failure of Requested or Random Speed Test

If a player's powerchair fails a Random NSWPFA Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team, with a score of 3-0.
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.

Discipline and Suspensions

The referee has the authority to take disciplinary sanctions, as from the moment they enter the venue of the match until they leave the venue after the final whistle.

Yellow Cards: If a player or member of a team's coaching staff receives five (5) Yellow cards during the competition, then they will receive a one (1) round suspension.

Red Cards: If a player or member of a team's coaching staff receives a Red Card following a second Yellow Card, they will receive a one (1) round suspension.

Red Cards: If a player or member of a team's coaching staff receives a direct Red Card the NSWPFA Board will assign a judiciary committee to assess the appropriate suspension to be served by that player. The judiciary hearing will be held at least three (3) days prior to the subsequent round.

At the conclusion of each round in which a player or member of a team's coaching staff receives a Yellow or Red card, the NSWPFA will provide an update to the individual Player's club detailing the cumulative number of Yellow and Red cards received by each of the Club's Players.

A player or member of a team's coaching staff is deemed ineligible to play or coach in either **Premiership** or **Championship** matches during the competition round(s) which they are serving their suspension.

Player Classification

Classification is not a requirement for the NSWPFA Powerchair League, however common sense will apply to player eligibility. As required, the NSWFA Board will adjudicate on the eligibility of players.

Match Outcomes and Results

After the forty (40) minutes of match play have been completed, the team with the most goals scored will be awarded three (3) points and the opposing team will be awarded zero (0) points. If the number of goals is equal between the teams, then both sides will be awarded one (1) point.

At the end of the season, the team with the greatest number of points will be declared champions, the team with the second most points as the second placed team, and so forth. If two or more teams are tied for the same number of points and determination must be made as to which is the higher placed team, the following criteria will be used:

- a) the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the season (goal differential).
- b) if goal differential is the same, the highest position shall be based on head to head results.
- c) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the season (total goals).
- d) If the teams are still equal in their standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team conceding the least number of goals against all other teams during the season.
- e) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the fewest team disciplinary points (cautions (yellow cards) are one (1) disciplinary point, send offs (red cards) are three (3) disciplinary points).
- f) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by a Penalty shoot-out. This Penalty shoot-out will take place immediately after the final match of the season.

Forfeits

A forfeit counts as a loss with the winning team awarded three (3) points and a three (3) goal to nil (0) default score. If a team should leave the competition for any reason, all matches against this team, including matches completed before their departure, will have their results voided. Where possible, forfeited matches may be rescheduled at a future date which is agreeable between both affected clubs and the NSW PFA Board.

Game Defaults

If a team cannot field at least 2 players (due to Red Cards or insufficient number of replacements) during any game, then the match is abandoned and the opposition team allocated three (3) points and a three (3) goal to nil (0) default score, or the current score of the match, if a greater goal differential exists at the time of abandonment.

NSWPFA Score Sheets

Team sheets will name a minimum of three (3) players from a club. During Premiership matches, all of a club's players may be named on the score sheet. During Championship matches, a club may name all eligible Championship players on the score sheet. Scoresheets are required to be completed prior to the beginning of a match and must be confirmed as finalised by the manager of each team and the Match Referee prior to the match beginning

At the conclusion of a match, this score sheet will be checked by a team manager from each club before being signed by the Match Referee to confirm the result and outcome of the match. The Match Referee will name a player of the match which is recorded on the score sheet when being signed by the Match Referee. This vote will be used to determine the Most Valuable Player award in each division at the end of the season.

Pre Match Routine

Warm Up

All teams will have the opportunity to warm up for at least five (5) minutes before the kick-off. Each competing team will have access to opposite halves of the court during their warmup.

Coin Toss

Both Team Captains will be called to the centre by the Match Officials where they will participate in a coin toss to determine field position and which team will kick-off to commence the match.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referees

A minimum of three (3) referees per match is required. One (1) Referee will be assigned as the Match Referee, while two (2) will be assigned as Assistant Referees for each match.

Appointment

Referees for the NSWPFPA Powerchair League will be allocated by Football NSW in line with NSWPFPA requested requirements.

Protest Procedures

Clubs should be aware that for all football decisions during the NSWPFPA Powerchair League season, the referee's decision shall be final in every case. Only the Head Coaches of each team may respectfully ask the Match Referee for explanation of decisions at the Half Time break or completion of a match. Common sense will apply to calls for violations from each Team's Technical Area throughout a match. The Match Referee, who is responsible for controlling a Match, has the responsibility to inform persons within the Technical Area of their responsibility to remain respectful at all times during a match, in accordance with the NSWPFPA's Code of Conduct.

Complaints

For any complaints concerning the administration of the **NSWPFPA Powerchair League**, whether concerning matters on-field or off-field, can be directed to members of the NSWPFPA Board. Official complaints will be required to be presented in writing to the President, Secretary, or Treasurer of the NSWPFPA

EXCEPTIONS

Any exception to these tournament regulations must be approved, in advance, by the NSWPFPA Board and communicated to all Clubs and Officials prior to amendments coming into force.

SPORTS VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Dimensions

The basic size of the field that the game will be played on is 30m long x 18m wide.

Markings

The field is marked with lines which belong to the areas of which they are the boundaries.

The two longer boundary lines are called touch lines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines.

The field is divided into two halves by a halfway line.

The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. The mark may consist of a 15 cm (6 inch) "X" taped securely onto the floor with contrasting/non-damaging tape.

Goal Area

A goal area is marked at the centre of each end of the field, 8m wide and 5m deep.

Penalty Mark

A penalty mark is placed 3.5m from the goal line and equidistant from each goalpost to indicate the location of the ball during the taking of penalty kicks. The mark may consist of a 15cm "X" or line taped securely onto the floor with contrasting/non-damaging tape.

Goals

Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line. The distance between the posts is 6m.

Goal Posts

The goal post must consist of

- A round vertical bar 5cm in diameter and a height not exceeding 200cm.
- The vertical bar is positioned in the centre of a flat base, no thicker than 1cm.
- The base can be either round or square.
- The base dimensions should be between 40cm and 50cm in width.
- Its weight should allow the post to move when a wheelchair hits the vertical bar, but should not be moved by the impact of the ball.
- A grip maybe used underneath the base, but this should not be larger than the base.

The Corner Arc

A triangle 1m from each corner is drawn inside the field of play.

Defensive Corner Mark

A mark shall be made one (1) meter inside each goalpost which designates the area in which defensive players must not sit inside during a corner. In alignment with the Laws of the Game, the Goalkeeper shall be allowed to sit outside of the goal line within the Corner Mark.

Officials' Area

An area at least 1m wide is placed around the entire perimeter of the court which allows the safe movement of officials around the court during matches.

Technical Areas

Technical areas will extend the length of the specified sideline and will include space for the score table and areas for each of the competing teams.

Each team's technical area will include space for:

- Coach and assistant coach, either of which may provide coaching to players during a match
- Technical assistant
- Medical assistant
- Team manager
- Any of a **Club's** players not currently on the court. This includes both **Premiership** and **Championship** players
- Support persons actively caring for players who are their children, clients, or friends.
- Power supply that allows for up to eight (8) powerchair chargers to be used during the Clubs matches as required.
- A replacement powerchair (only to be used in cases of complete mechanical failure of an athlete's powerchair).
- There is no requirement for persons within the technical area to be seated

All persons regularly situated within the technical area (i.e. for the duration of a match, not passing through or attending to a player for a short-term care needs) should be registered members of the NSW PFA.

Officials Requirements

On match days, match officials must have a private area between matches and during half-time breaks. This may be a room or other area away from the match area.

There must also be a score table with space for a minimum of two (2) officials in this technical area. This table should have access to power supply, an electronic or manual scoreboard and seating. The match scorekeeping officials will be provided with score sheets by NSWPFPA on match days which will be collected by a NSWPFPA official at the conclusion of match days.

Score Board

For the benefit of spectators and coaches, a visual scoring system must be maintained. The score board must be visible at all times from the team technical area. For the benefit of the spectators the score board must include a game clock (unofficial).

Balls

NSWPFPA will supply competition balls for any NSWPFPA Powerchair League matches. The Match Referee and Head Coaches will choose the match ball.

Medical Requirements

On match days, NSWPFPA committee members with First Aid training will be present. A list of these committee members will be provided to all clubs and match officials. A First Aid kit will be provided by NSWPFPA for use on match days.

For medical emergencies, NSWPFPA will assist with notifying emergency services (Ambulance, Fire, Police, etc.) where necessary. If a person requiring medical assistance is able to be transported to hospital without the need for emergency services, NSWPFPA will ensure they are directed to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Other Requirements

Awards

The below Championship Awards will be financed by NSWPFPA.

NSWPFPA Powerchair Premiership Trophy

NSWPFPA Powerchair Championship Trophy

The winning club / team will be presented with the perpetual trophy for the division they are deemed champions. This trophy must be returned prior to the annual awards presentation event.

Team Awards (Premiership and Championship)

- Winner Medals / Trophies for Players and Coaches

Individual Awards (Premiership and Championship)

- Most Valuable Player - decided by votes from official score sheets
- Top goal scorer - Golden Guard
- Most Assists
- Most Clean Sheets

Awards Presentation

Presentation of the Championship Awards will occur at the conclusion of the final round of the season.

The trophy presentation for all other awards shall take place at the annual NSWPFPA presentation lunch / dinner. This event will be announced to members when RSVPs are required for the event.